

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD--RESULTS OF SECOND

UNCTAD--RESULTS OF SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING
UN TROPICAL TIMBER

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REF: GENEVA 4301 .

SUMMARY: SECOND PREPARATORY WAS HELD OCTOBER 24-28 TO DEVELOP WORK PROGRAM FOR CONSIDERATION BY JANUARY MEETING. INITIAL PROGRESS WAS SLOW BECAUSE OF LENGTHY PRODUCER CAUCUSING. CONTACT GROUPS PROVED CONFRONTATIONAL WITH CONSUMERS INSISTING THAT CAUSES OF INSTABILITY BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE POSSIBLE MEASURES BEING ADVOCATED BY PRODUCERS. FINALLY AGREED-UPON WORK PROGRAM NEEDED OFFERING VIEWS OF THE TWO GROUPS AND PROPOSES STUDIES ON WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS COVERING BOTH ANALYSIS OF INSTABILITY AND MEASURES. SECRETARIAT MAINTAINED ACTIVE AND BLATANTLY PRO-PRODUCER ROLE THROUGHOUT MEETING.

1. SECOND PREPARATORY MEETING ON TROPICAL TIMBER, TASKED WITH PREPARING A PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NEXT PREPARATORY, MET OCTOBER 24-28, 1977, IN GENEVA AT EXPERTS LEVEL. MEETING MADE EXTREMELY SLOW START WITH PRODUCERS SPENDING THREE DAYS IN CAUCUSES THAT WERE STALLED

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BY NON-ATTENDANCE OF KEY AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND BY TRANSLATION DELAYS RELATED TO AN ASIAN PRODUCERS' PROPOSAL. PRODUCERS EVENTUALLY TABLED PAPER EMPHASIZING INTERNATIONAL MEASURES AND COMMON FUND FINANCING WHILE CONSUMERS ALSO SUBMITTED A PAPER OUTLINING A PROGRAM OF STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN FIRST.

2. ENSUING SESSIONS OF CONTACT GROUP PROVED DIFFICULT AND AT TIMES CONFRONTATIONAL. PRODUCERS--LED BY MALAYSIA, WITH OCCASIONAL INTERVENTIONS BY INDONESIA AND PHILIPPINES--ADAMANTLY INSISTED THAT THEIR OWN STUDIES CLEARLY ESTABLISHED EXISTENCE OF MARKET INSTABILITY AND CALLED UPON THE CONSUMERS TO CRITIQUE THEIR PAPER ON MEASURES. CONSUMERS--WITH CANADIAN DEL AS SPOKESMAN--RESPONDED THAT A STUDY OF CAUSES WOULD HAVE TO PRECEDE AN ANALYSIS OF MEASURES AND THAT INSUFFICIENT TIME REMAINED TO ANALYZE THE PRODUCER PAPER, AND THE STUDIES THEY CLAIM TO HAVE CARRIED OUT LEADING THEM TO PROPOSE THE SPECIFIC MEASURES.

3. AGREEMENT WAS EVENTUALLY REACHED ON A COMPROMISE TEXT WHICH A) NOTED DIVERGENT VIEWS OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS

ON CONSIDERING MEASURES, AND B) PUT FORWARD A FIVE-PART PROGRAM OF PROPOSED STUDIES. THE STUDIES TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE THIRD PREPARATORY COVER:

(I) A "THOROUGH ANALYSIS" OF THE DEGREE, CHARACTERISTICS AND CAUSES OF MARKET INSTABILITY, AND ANOTHER "THOROUGH ANALYSIS" OF POSSIBLE MEASURES INCLUDING THOSE SET FORTH IN THE PRODUCERS' PAPER. BOTH ANALYSES ARE TO BE INITIATED AND CONSIDERED AT THE SAME TIME.

(II) COLLATION OF EXISTING INFORMATION ON A WIDE RANGE OF FORESTRY TOPICS INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE, PROCESSING, LESSER KNOWN SPECIES, RESIDUE USES AND REFORESTATION.

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(III) INFORMATION EXCHANGES BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ON MARKET CONDITIONS AND TROPICAL TIMBER RESOURCES.

(IV) INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF NOMENCLATURE AND SPECIFICATIONS.

(V) TRAINING OF FORESTRY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING TRAINING IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS ARE TO INDICATE TO THE SECRETARIAT BY NOV. 30, 1977, SUBJECTS IN WHICH THEY HAVE EXPERTISE AND MIGHTBEABLE TO PREPARE OR MAKE AVAILABLE STUDIES

THE SECRETARIA, WILL THEN PREPARE AN INVENTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN AND COULD BE UNDERTA EN.

4. SECRETARIAT PLAYED AN ACTIVE, PRO-PRODUCER ROLE THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. SECRETARIAT ATTEMPTED ON FIRST DAY TO FOCUS MEETING'S DIRECTION BY DISTRIBUTING AN UNSOLICITED OUTLINE FOR A WORK PROGRAM BASED ON A SELECTIVE REORGANIZATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING. IT LATER DISTRIBUTED TWO OTHER LENGTHY AND ALSO UNSOLICITED PAPERS--ONE ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS AND ONE ON R&D--WHICH WERE CLOSELY MIRRORED IN PRODUCER PAPER. SECRETARIAT ALSO PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PRODUCER CAUCUSES AND INTERVENED ON PRODUCERS' BEHALF DURING CONTACT GROUP SESSIONS. CONSUMERS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE UPON JOINT STATEMENT CRITICIZING SECRETARIAT ROLE, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY SWITZERLAND, THE NORDICS, AND THE NETHERLANDS.

5. INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER BUREAU (ITTB) SURFACED ONLY ONCE IN FINAL PLENARY. INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER
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(ITC) REP MADE SHORT STATEMENT ON ORIGINS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED BODY, BUT REMAINING TIME DID NOT PERMIT COMMENTS BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES.(FYI: SOME 14 TROPICAL TIMBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL MEET OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 11 UNDER ITC AUSPICES TO ESTABLISH AN ITTB. AS OUTLINED IN A PREVIOUSLY PREPARED DRAFT AGREEMENT, THE ITTB WOULD BE A PRODUCERS-ONLY BODY AIMED AT MARKET PROMOTION AND R&D. CONSUMERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SEND OBSERVERS, AND A US MISSION REP WILL ATTEND.)

6. COMMENT: THE FIRM POSITION ADOPTED BY CONSUMERS PAID LIMITED DIVIDENDS. MAJOR FOCUS OF THE AGREED-UPON PROPOSAL FOR A WORK PROGRAM IS STUDIES, RATHER THAN MEASURES. PRODUCERS WERE UNABLE TO FORCE A LAST-MINUTE CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES THAT MIGHT HAVE LED TO A PRODUCER CALL FOR PREMATURE ACTION. NEXT MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN ITS GUIDANCE ON WHICH STUDIES SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY AND HOW AND BY WHOM THEY ARE TO BE CARRIED OUT. MEETING WILL ALSO HAVE TO DECIDE HOW BEST TO CAPITALIZE ON WEALTH OF STUDIES ALREADY CARRIED OUT UNDER FAO AUSPICES AND BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. VANCE

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